Public Notice



Applicant:

Mercer Mill, LLC

Date:

Published: June 16, 2004

Expires: July 15, 2004

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

In Reply Refer To:

Buffalo District CELRB-TD-R RE: 88-850-14(2) Section: NY 10 and 404

Application for Permit under Authority of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Mr. James Orlando, dba Mercer Mill Development, L.L.C., 30 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, New York 13027, has requested a Department of the Army (DA) permit to renovate the existing Mercer Mill and I.P.P. Mill into the Mercer Mill Inn. The mills are located on the Seneca River at Paper Mill Island, 4 Syracuse Street, in the Village of Baldwinsville, Onondaga County, New York.

The project consists of the following:

- 1. Filling the two raceway ponds for the construction of parking space for the Inn. Pond 1 is a constructed raceway for the I.P.P. Mill and is approximately 0.25 acres in size. Pond 1 is connected to the canal at the lock. Steel sheets would be installed in existing slots under the bridge separating the pond from the canal to dewater the pond prior to filling. Pond 2 is a constructed raceway for the existing Mercer Mill, and is approximately 0.19 acres in size. Pond 2 receives water from two 4 foot culverts from Raceway Pond 1 (see Sheet 4 of 10). The raceway ponds were constructed for mill operations and provide little habitat value. They contain stagnant water and often collect trash and debris.
- 2. Construction of a banquet room and walkway over the tailrace of the Mercer Mill. The banquet room and walkway would be supported by 3 piers, one of which would be located below the Ordinary High Water (OHW) of the river. The banquet room and walkway will extend approximate 35 feet long by 67 feet wide over the OHW of the river (see Sheet 10 of 10).
- 3. Installation of bank stabilization between the mills along the Seneca River. Approximately 260 cubic yards of concrete and stone will be placed below OHW along 150 linear feet of bank (see Sheet 7 of 10).
- 4. The applicant received affirmation of Nationwide Permit numbers 3 and 33 to install a cofferdam at the tailrace to do emergency repairs to the foundation of the building/tailrace. The cofferdam would also provide for temporary access during construction of the banquet room if authorized. The cofferdam will consist of large limestone, which

was previously used as a cofferdam in the river for repairs to the Seneca Hydro Plant across the river. The cofferdam will be approximately 104 feet long by 15 feet wide at top width, with approximately 350 cubic yards of stone below the Ordinary High Water mark (see Sheet 6 of 10).

The purpose of the project is to renovate the existing mills into an Inn and restaurant.

Location and details of the above described work are shown on the attached maps and drawings.

Questions pertaining to the work described in this notice should be directed to Margaret A. Crawford, who can be contacted by calling (315) 255-8090, or by e-mail at: margaret.a.crawford@usace.army.mil

The following authorization(s) may be required for this project:

Water Quality Certification (or waiver thereof) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Based on preliminary findings, the Barge Canal System is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is located adjacent to the proposed project. In addition, the existing mills may also be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We are consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

In addition, available evidence indicates that the proposed work will not affect a species proposed or designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as threatened or endangered, nor will it affect the critical habitat of any such species.

This notice is promulgated in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 320-330. Any interested party desiring to comment on the work described herein may do so by submitting their comments, in writing, so that they are received no later than 4:30 pm on the expiration date of this notice.

Comments should be sent to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 7413 County House Road, Auburn, New York 13021, and should be marked to the attention of Margaret A. Crawford, or by e-mail at: margaret.a.crawford@usace.army.mil. A lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the work as proposed.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. All written comments will be made a part of the administrative record which is available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any individual may request a public hearing by submitting their written request, stating the specific reasons for holding a hearing, in the same manner and time period as other comments.

Public hearings for the purposes of the Corps permit program will be held when the District Commander determines he can obtain additional information, not available in written comments, that will aid him in the decision making process for this application. A Corps hearing is not a source of information for the general public, nor a forum for the resolution of issues or conflicting points of view (witnesses are not sworn and cross examination is prohibited). Hearings will not be held to obtain information on issues unrelated to the work requiring a permit, such as property ownership, neighbor disputes, or the behavior or actions of the public or applicant on upland property not regulated by the Department of the Army. Information obtained from a public hearing is given no greater weight than that obtained from written comments. Therefore, you should not fail to make timely written comments because a hearing might be held.

The decision to approve or deny this permit request will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the

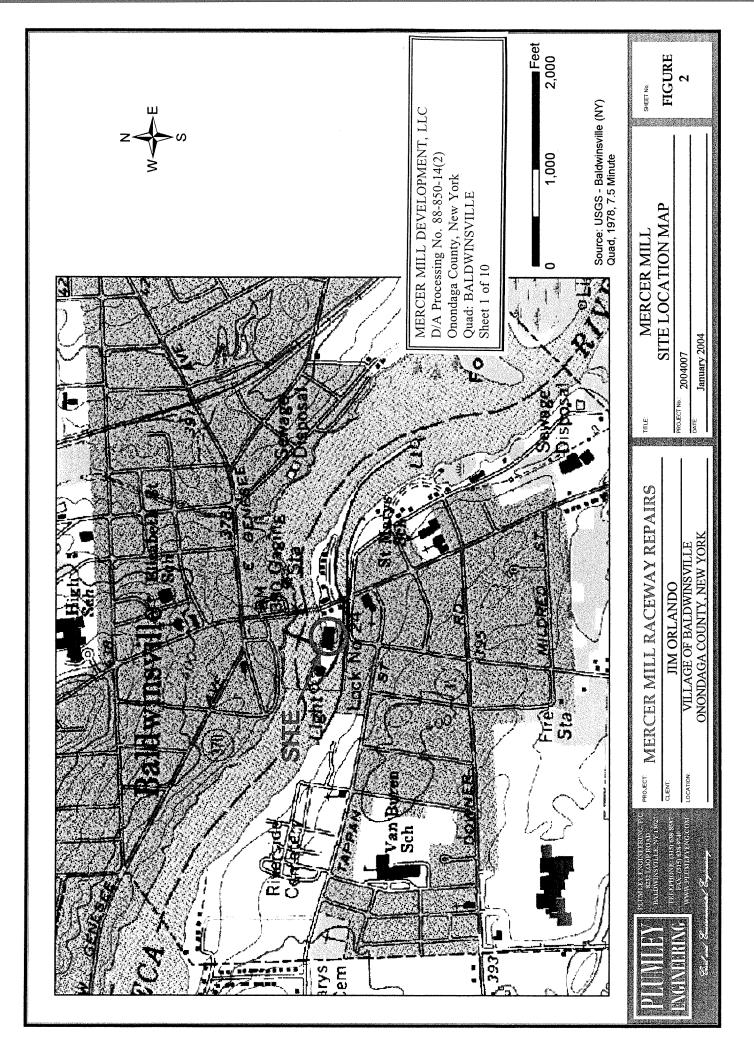
proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

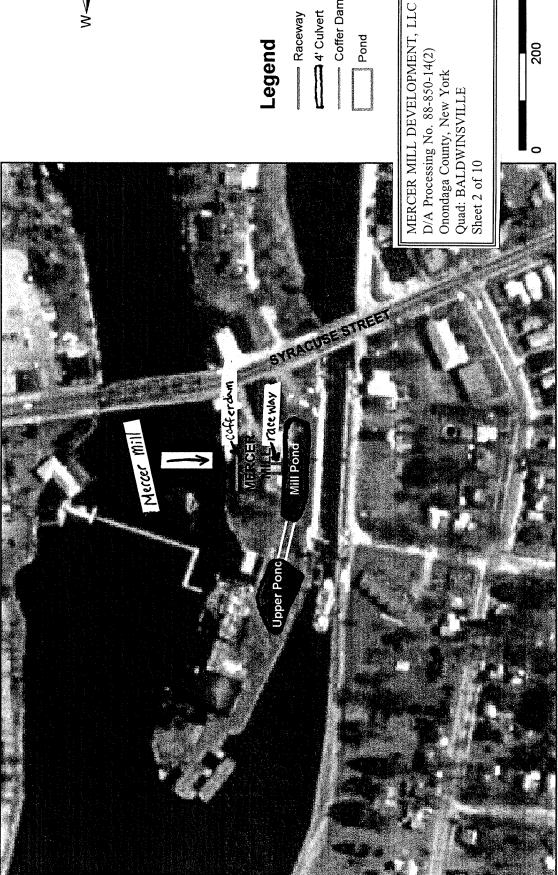
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

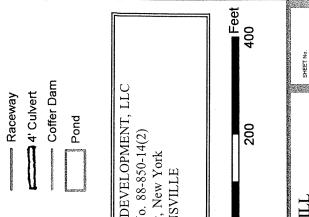
Thomas Switala Chief, Regulatory Branch

SIGNED

NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.









MERCER MILL RACEWAY REPAIRS PROJECT:

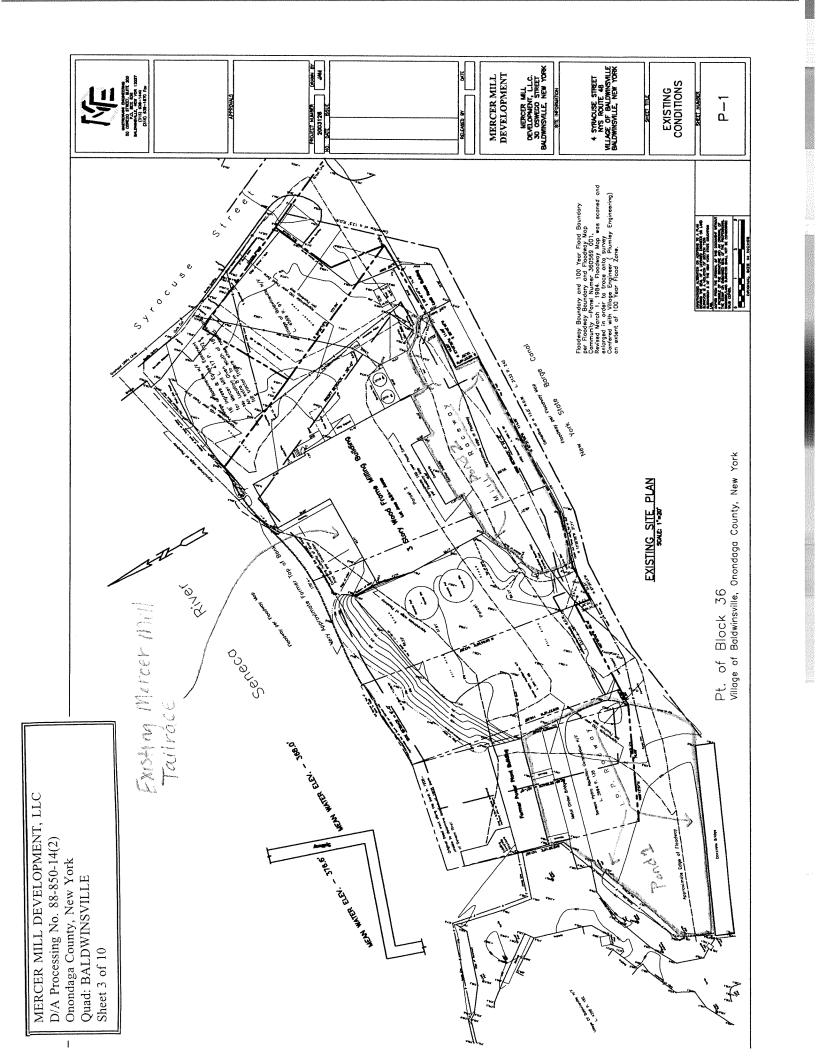
JIM ORLANDO
VILLAGE OF BALDWINSVILLE
ONONDAGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

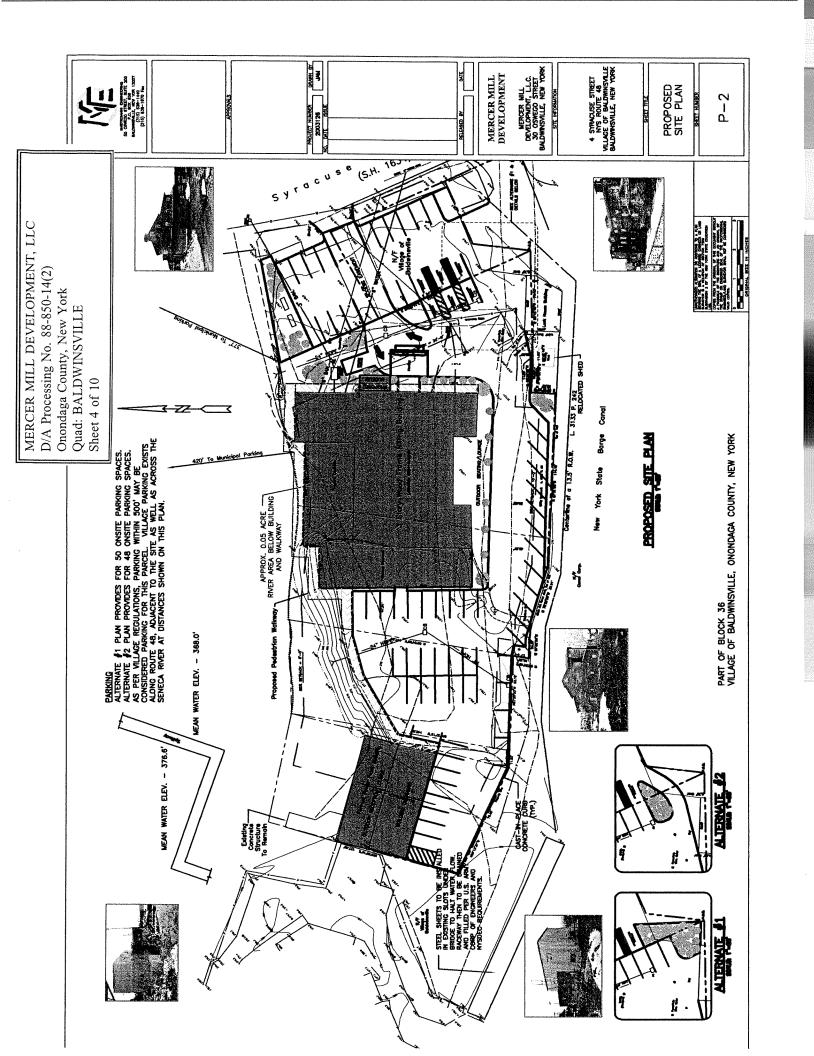
MERCER MILL SITE PLAN

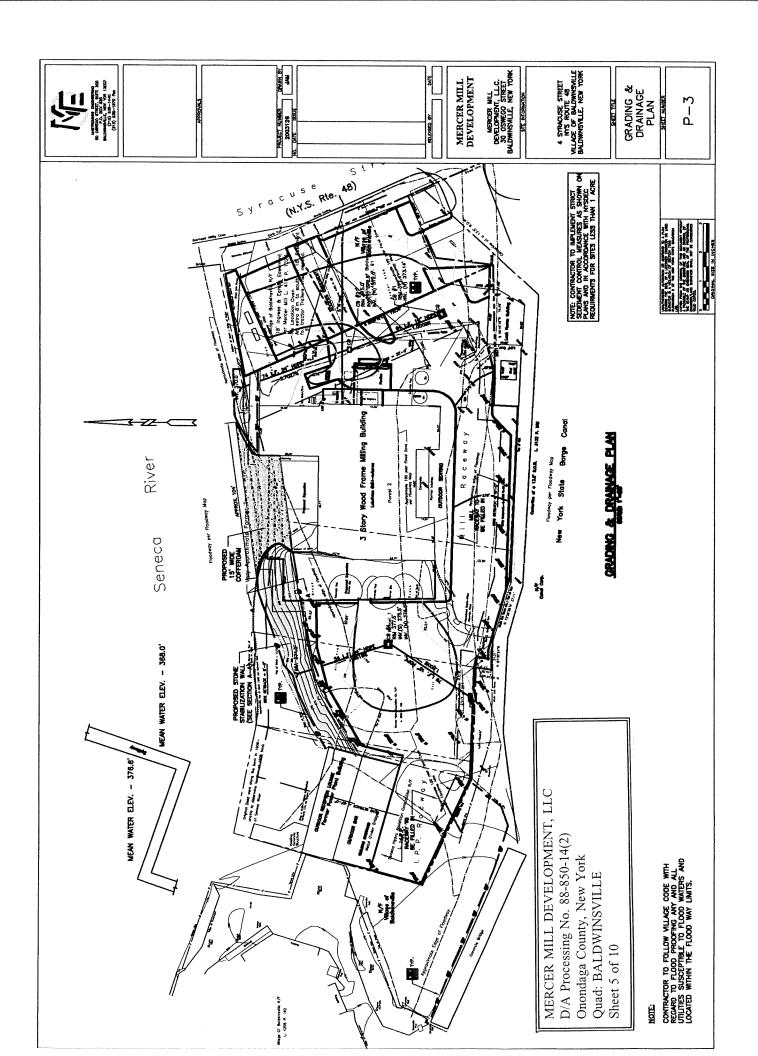
TITLE

January 2004 2004007 PROJECT No.: DATE:

FIGURE

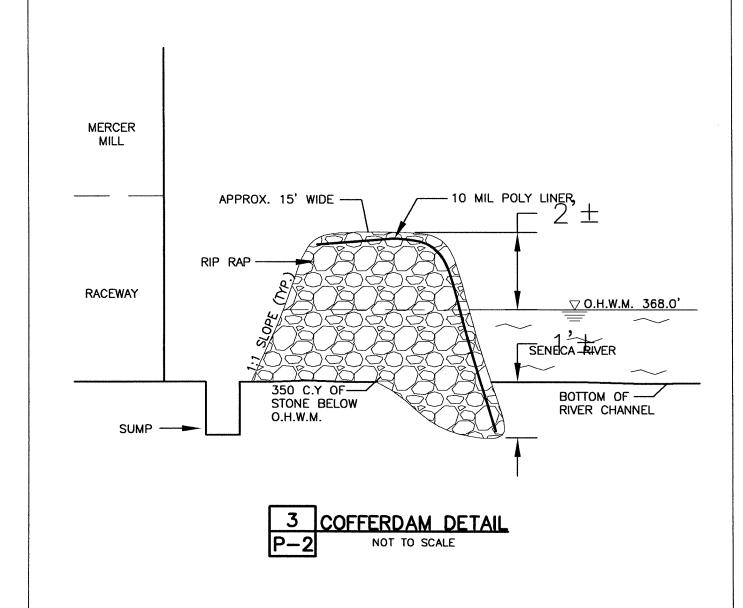






MERCER MILL DEVELOPMENT, LLC D/A Processing No. 88-850-14(2)
Onondaga County, New York
Quad: BALDWINSVILLE

Sheet 6 of 10



MERCER MILL DEVELOPMENT N.Y.S. ROUTE 48 BALDWINSVILLE, NY 13027

ME Project No. 2003126

SCALE: NTS

SITE MAP

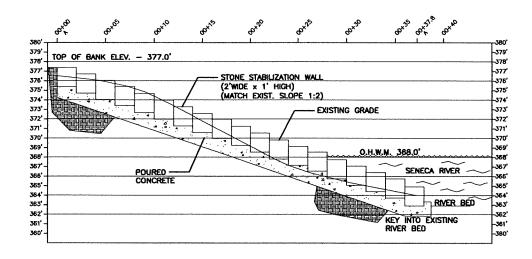
MASTROIANNI ENGINEERING P.O. BOX 836 BALDWINSVILLE, NEW YORK 13027 FIGURE 1

MERCER MILL DEVELOPMENT, LLC

D/A Processing No. 88-850-14(2) Onondaga County, New York

Quad: BALDWINSVILLE

Sheet 7 of 10



VOLUME IMPACTED UNDER O.H.W.M. = 260 C.Y.

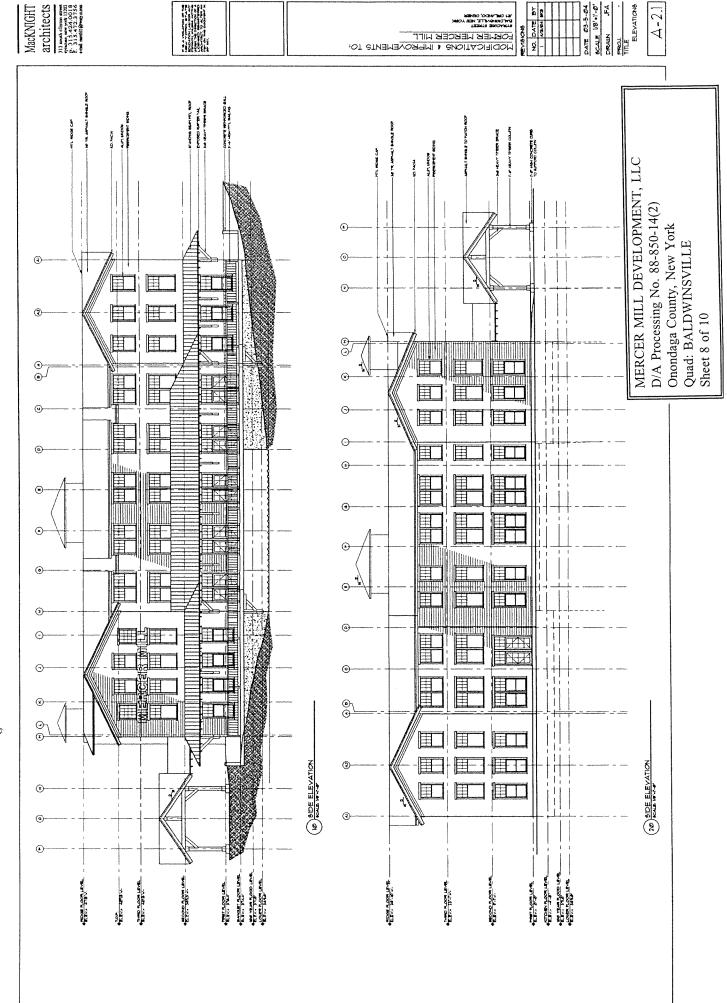
STONE WALL DETAIL

MERCER MILL DEVELOPMENT N.Y.S. ROUTE 48 BALDWINSVILLE, NY 13027

ME Project No. 2003126 | SCALE: 1" = 10'

SITE MAP

MASTROIANNI ENGINEERING P.O. BOX 836 BALDWINSVILLE, NEW YORK 13027 FIGURE 2



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